

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN/HLK
APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.

NEA/P - MR. SHERMAN
NEA/EX - (INFO)
M - MR. EAGLEBURGER
P - MR. SISCO
S/S - MR.MOFFAT

----- 064425

R 012335Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 073835

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN INVASION PLANS
REF: JIDDA 2250

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

1. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF SAUDI SENSITIVITIES ON THE SUBJECT OF ALLEGED US INVASION PLANS BUT WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT FURTHER STATEMENTS BY US ON THIS SUBJECT WILL LAY THEM TO REST; THEY COULD, IN FACT, HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT. FOR THE SECRETARY TO MAKE STILL ANOTHER STATEMENT IN LIGHT OF HIS FORTHRIGHT REMARKS WHEN HE LEFT RIYADH ON MARCH 19 WOULD ONLY OPEN ISSUE ONCE MORE, AND LEAD TO SPECULATION WHY WE NEEDED TO MAKE YET ANOTHER STATEMENT.

2. I HAVE READ YOUR DRAFT SPEECH WHICH IS WELL ARGUED AND
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MAKES POINTS WE HAVE QUIETLY MADE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

AND IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE. BUT NO MATTER HOW CONVINCING THE ARGUMENT, ANYTHING WE SAY WILL ONLY SPARK A NEW DISCUSSION IN THE MEDIA WHICH WE THINK WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS TIME. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE REFUSING TO CLEAR ANY ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MILITARY OFFICERS FOR PUBLICATION WHICH IN ANY WAY SPECULATE ON FEASIBILITY OF INVASION IN PERSIAN GULF.

3. WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO YOUR COMING HOME ON CONSULTATION SOON BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE DATES OPEN BECAUSE OF OUR PRESENT UNCERTAINTY OVER SCHEDULING OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA INCLUDING THAT OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON AND OTHERS YOU ARE AWARE OF. I SUGGEST WE HAVE ANOTHER LOOK LATER IN MONTH AT POSSIBLE DATES. KISSINGER

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NNN

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